

December 2, 2005

Mr. Edward A. Diana  
Orange County Executive  
Orange County Government Center  
Goshen, New York 10924

Dear Mr. Diana:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated October 18, 2005, in which you expressed concerns about the reliability of the Alert and Notification System (ANS) currently installed at the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) and Entergy's plans to replace the system.

Because emergency notification is an important element of the NRC's mission of protecting public health and safety, the reliability of the Indian Point ANS is of concern to the NRC. That concern has prompted the NRC to increase the level of regulatory oversight of Entergy's actions to identify the causes for these equipment failures, correct them, and test the system after corrective actions have been taken to ensure the system is fully operable. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sponsoring a contractor review of the ANS and has committed to notify the NRC promptly of any significant issues. In a letter to the NRC dated October 25, 2005, Entergy described its plans to replace the existing siren system with a new system that will incorporate a backup power feature, as specified in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

The NRC and FEMA participated in a public meeting on November 16, 2005 in which Entergy discussed both near and longer term improvements to the ANS. The NRC plans to continue participating in meetings with the affected counties, New York State, FEMA, and Entergy to ensure that a common understanding of stakeholder concerns exists and ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

The Commission takes emergency preparedness, including reliable and prompt public notification very seriously. We appreciate and share your strong interest in protecting the citizens who live in the communities surrounding Indian Point.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure:  
Entergy's letter on Backup Power for  
Emergency Sirens, dated October 25, 2005